TIME OF THE MEETINGS OF THE HOUSE.

PRESIDENT: I think it will be agreed that it will be inconvenient to honourable members to assemble, according to the new time, at 11 o' clock, and as we have advanced the time—I don't want to make a change in the Rules and conventions. we may commence our business an hour later and sit an hour longer.

The House agreed to meet at 12 Noon.

MOTION OF WELCOME TO THE DEWAN-PRESIDENT.

MR. K. G. GOVINDAN: I move: "This House has great pleasure in welcoming Sachivottama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar back to the State and offers him the hearty co-operation of the entire people of the State in the discharge of his onerous duties during the difficult times ahead of us."

Sir, this motion is a natural consequence of the motion that was unanimously passed by this House on the eve of your temporary departure from the State to assume charge of your office in the Viceroy's Executive Council. This House had then wished you godspeed and prayed for your early return. As the result of the fervent prayer of the people of this country you have returned perhaps sooner than many expected. This House is meeting for the first time after your return and it is only in the fitness of things that this House records its sense of joy at your resuming the administrative reins of this country again.

Sir, the times we are passing through in this country and elsewhere in India are difficult and bad.

The problem that demands our immediate attention is with respect to the production of food-stuffs and their collection and distribution, and I am sure every individual in this country will co-operate, and render all assistance to the Government in this matter. Sir, some of us have our differences of opinion about the measures adopted by the Government with respect to the collection and distribution of food-stuffs. Some of us have our differences of opinion with respect to the policy adopted by the Government in regard to the appointments in Government Service of persons belonging to communities inadequately represented in Public Service. But all of us are agreed that this is not the time for ventilating those grievances. Thousands of people are starving. Co-operation, as I said, of the people and the Government is needed for the collection of food-stuffs from surplus areas and their distribution in the deficit areas and I am sure, Sir, your Government will get the utmost co-operation of the people in this matter.

Another matter for which the Government desire the co-operation and support of the people is, as you have said this morning, the war effort. We know, Sir, as a matter of fact—and I am sure the British Government also knows—that in the matter of war propaganda and recruitment, this country has reached the high water mark of

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efficiency. The example of His Highness the Maharaja and the speeches you have made in this House and elsewhere have given the necessary impetus for the co-operation of the people in the war effort. And it must be a source of gratification to you, Sir, to find that your efforts in that direction have been crowned with success.

Sir, with respect to the relationship that ought to exist between an Indian State and the Central Government of India, you have taken a bold and definite stand. You have given expression to very momentous words in your recent speech at Ranade Hall, Mylapore. I may be permitted to quote a few lines from that speech. "If any Indian State is not responsive to the national tendencies or is not working in harmony with the national policy elsewhere in India, that State does not deserve to live.... If a conflict arose between the demand of All India and the clamour of the little patriotisms of the States, who would be so churlish as to defy such a demand, the demand of all India..... with respect to the particular measures to foster the growth of agriculture, of local industries, of culture, the utmost attention must be paid. But all local wants and grievances are as chaff and straw compared with the needs of All-India."

These are words, Sir, which would go down in the history of future India as words which paved the way for a united and consequently an independent India.

Sir, you may assure His Highness the Maharaja that there are 60 lakhs of people here to support His Highness and His Highness' Government in any measure adopted by His Highness and His Highness' Government during these difficult times.

MR. K. KUNJU PANICKAR: സർ, ആണറബിൾ മെമ്പർ മി. കെ. ജി. ഗോവിന്ദൻ മഹാരാക്കിയ പ്രമേയത്തെ പിൻതാങ്ങിക്കൊണ്ട് രണ്ടു വാക്കു പറയാമെന്നു ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നു. കഴിഞ്ഞ കർക്കടകമാസത്തിൽ നടന്ന നിയമസഭയിൽ വച്ച് അങ്ങു ഇവിടെനിന്നും ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട വൈസ്രായിയുടെ എക്സിക്യൂട്ടിവ് കൗൺസിലിലേയ്ക്കു പോകുന്നുവെന്നു പറഞ്ഞപ്പോൾ ഈ സഭയിൽ പലർക്കും വലിയ നിരാശയും വേദനയുമുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. അങ്ങനെ പോയപ്പോൾ മുരുങ്ങിയത് ആറുമാസമെങ്കിലും അങ്ങ് ആ സ്ഥാനത്തു ഇരിക്കുന്നതിന് ഇടവരുമെന്നു ഞങ്ങൾ വിചാരിച്ചിരുന്നു. അതുവിചാരിച്ചു ഞങ്ങൾക്ക് അസാമാന്യമായ ഉൽക്കണ്ഠയും ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ഇന്നത്തെ ലോകമഹായുദ്ധംപോലെയുള്ള ഏറ്റവും ഭയങ്കരമായ വിപ്ലവപരിസരങ്ങൾക്കിടയിൽ, സർ, അങ്ങയെപ്പോലെയുള്ള ഒരാളിന്റെ ബലിഷ്ഠഹസ്തത്താലല്ല ഇവിടത്തെ ഭരണചക്രം നിയന്ത്രിക്കപ്പെട്ടിരുന്നതെങ്കിൽ, അതു് ഏറ്റവും നിർഭാഗ്യകരമായ ഒന്നായിത്തീർന്നേനെ എന്നുള്ളതിനു യാതൊരു സന്ദേഹവുമില്ല. അങ്ങ

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[Mr. Kunju Panicker]

യെപ്പോലെയുള്ള ഒരു ഭരണമേധാവിയുടെ അഭാവത്തിൽ കുറഞ്ഞകാല ത്തേക്കാണെങ്കിലും, അതു് എത്രമാത്രം വിഷമകരമായിരിക്കും എന്നു ഞ ങ്ങൾ വാസ്തവത്തിൽ ഭയപ്പെട്ടുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുകയായിരുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ഞങ്ങളുടെയെല്ലാം ഭാഗ്യാതിരേകംകൊണ്ടു്, വൈസ്രായി അവർകളുടെ എക്സിക്യൂട്ടീവ് കൗൺസിലിൽ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്ന ജോലി ആവശ്യമില്ലെന്നു തീരുമാനിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു് അങ്ങു പെട്ടെന്നു മടങ്ങിവരികയാണുണ്ടായതു്. ഒരു മഹാസാമ്രാജ്യത്തെ മുഴുവനും അടക്കി ഭരിക്കുവാൻതക്ക യോഗ്യതയുള്ള അങ്ങേയ്ക്കു് ഏറ്റവും ചെറിയ ഒരു രാജ്യമായ ഈ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിനെ ഭരിക്കുക എന്നുള്ളതിലാണു ക്ലേശതൽ ആഗ്രഹം ഉണ്ടായതു് എന്നു കാണു ന്നതിൽ ഞങ്ങൾക്കുള്ള സന്തോഷം സീമാതീതമാണു്. ഈ രാജ്യനിവാ സികളുടെ അസാമാന്യമായ ഭാഗ്യാതിരേകമൊന്നുകൊണ്ടുമാത്രം അങ്ങേ യ്ക്കു് ഇങ്ങനെ തോന്നി എന്നേ പറയേണ്ടതുള്ളു. സർ, അങ്ങു് ഇവിടെ ത്തെ ദിവാൻപദം കയ്യേറ്റതിനുശേഷം ഒരു രാജ്യത്തിനു് ഉണ്ടാകാൻ കഴിവുള്ള സകലവിധമായ വൈശിഷ്ട്യങ്ങളും ഇവിടെ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ടു്. സർവകലാശാല, അനേകം വ്യവസായസംരംഭങ്ങൾ, ഹൈഡ്രോ ഏ ക്ട്രിക്ക് സ്കീം ഇങ്ങനെ പലതും ഇവിടെ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തി. എന്നുവേണ്ട തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തെ പബ്ലിക്ക് റോഡിനുതന്നെ അങ്ങു വന്നതിനുശേ ഷം ഒരു വലിയ മാറ്റം വരുത്തുകയുണ്ടായി. സാമാന്യബുദ്ധ്യുമു ള്ള് അങ്ങു് ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ഈ യുദ്ധത്തിന്റെ പ്രാരംഭഘട്ടത്തിൽ ഏറ റവും ദീർഘദർശനബുദ്ധിയോടുകൂടി ഭാവിയിൽ ഇവിടെ വന്നേക്കാവുന്ന വിപത്തിനെ നേരിട്ടു് അഭിമുഖീകരിക്കുകയും ഗവണ്മെൻറു നേരിട്ടു് ഇ വിടെ അരി വരുത്തുവാൻ വ്യവസ്ഥചെയ്കയും ഉണ്ടായി. അന്നു ചി ലർ ഇതിനെ മറുതരത്തിൽ വ്യാഖ്യാനിക്കുവാൻ ബദ്ധശ്രദ്ധരായി കാണ പ്പെട്ടുവെങ്കിലും അതു് രാജ്യത്തിനു് വലിയ രക്ഷ ചെയ്തു എന്നുള്ളതിൽ പക്ഷാന്തരത്തിനു വകയില്ല. ഗവണ്മെൻറു് അരി എപ്പോഴും മാക്ക റ്റിൽ ഇല്ലാതെയായൊ, അപ്പോഴാണു് അരിയുടെ വില പെട്ടെന്നു വർദ്ധിച്ചതു്. ഇപ്പോഴും അരി തീരെ മാക്കറ്റിൽനിന്നു കിട്ടാതെയുമായി. ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഇൻഡ്യയിൽപോലും വേണ്ടത്ര ഭക്ഷണസാധനങ്ങളും ഇല്ലാതിരി ക്കുന്ന ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ അങ്ങു് പെട്ടെന്നു ഇവിടെ തിരിച്ചുവന്നു് ഞ ങ്ങളുടെ സങ്കടങ്ങൾക്കു കഴിവുള്ളത്ര പരിഹാരം ഉണ്ടാക്കിത്തന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇതു യഥാർത്ഥത്തിൽ ഈശ്വരാനുഗ്രഹംകൊണ്ടു തന്നെയാണെന്നു ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നു. ഒരു വലിയ സാമ്രാജ്യത്തിലെ ഭരണചക്രത്തെ

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സസന്തോഷം പരിത്യജിച്ച് തിരുവിതാംകൂറിനെപ്പോലെയുള്ള ഒരു ചെറിയ രാജ്യത്തുവന്ന് ഞങ്ങൾക്കു രക്ഷനൽകാമെന്നു വിചാരിച്ചു ഭയാബുദ്ധിക്കു ഞങ്ങൾ പ്രത്യേകം പ്രത്യേകം അങ്ങയോട് കൃതജ്ഞതയുള്ളവരായിരിക്കുന്നു. അങ്ങു ഞങ്ങളുടെ പൊന്നുതമ്പുരാൻ തിരുമനസ്സിലെ സചിവോത്തമനായി ദീർഘകാലം ഇരുന്ന് ഈ രാജ്യത്തെ ഒരു അനന്യഹിതഭൂലോകസ്വർഗ്ഗമാക്കിത്തീർക്കുവാൻ സംഗതിവരുത്തട്ടെ എന്നു ജഗദീശ്വരനോട് പ്രാർത്ഥിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ അനുകൂലിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

SADASYATILAKA T. K. VELU PILLAI: On my own behalf and on behalf of my party, I have very great pleasure to give my support to the motion before the House.

On the eve of your departure, Sir, temporarily from Travancore to take up another office in New Delhi, this Assembly expressed the hope that you would come back as soon as was possible and you were so good as to say that you would not stay outside for more time than was absolutely necessary. We felt glad, Sir, that you have come back, because whatever might be the traditions of the office of Dewan in Travancore before your arrival, there is a new feature created during the last few years that the Dewan of Travancore is one who will be able to influence the policy of the Government of India in regard to the States. I remember a time, Sir, when Dewans were afraid to speak to the Resident, much less to a provincial Governor. We are happy that you are putting Travancore in its proper place in the political and constitutional history of India. This is a time when a correct knowledge of what is happening outside our State is essential to proper administration. Travancore is sequestered by mountains and seas. It had not much intercourse with the world outside. To-day the world's thought is in terms of economics as well as in politics. We are happy that in this most difficult stage of our history, our affairs are guided by one who was able to acquire sufficient familiarity with the inner working of the Imperial Government, who was able to shape the policy of Government not only in Madras and New Delhi but also in London and Geneva.

I am very glad that you were pleased to give praise to three of our officers who are tackling a difficult problem. It is real generosity because it is not always that the head of the administration is prepared to praise his subordinates. We are glad, that you have also been able to train some of our officers in such matters as will further the advantages of Travancore so far as our relationship with the outside world is concerned; and therefore it is that I have chosen to rise from my seat and make a few remarks in support of the resolution; for we feel that the best service and the best knowledge and the best statemanship will be utilized in the service of Travancore under the aegis of His Highness our beloved Sovereign.

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[Sadasyatilaka T. K. Velu Pillai]

I wish merely to refer to a portion of your speech. Sir, it has been the custom for years and years for people who come from outside to belittle the greatness of Travancore. When I was listening to your speech, as a student of History and as one who has had the chance of seeing various historical records, it gave me a glow of pleasure, when I heard the Dewan speaking as a Travancorean, and glorifying in the greatness of Travancore and in the memories of the old warriors of Travancore who drove away the Mysore army and did a lot of service for the success of the British arm in South India at a time when they had not an ally here.

I wish, however, to say that this is a time when the bonds between the Government and the people have to be drawn together by golden chains made in the furnace of danger and trouble and necessity. Therefore this resolution to me, Sir, has a special significance. What does the resolution say? It welcomes the Dewan and it offers promise of support. There is nothing so good as to take the Legislature into the confidence of Government. And you have repeatedly declared your intention of continuing that enlightened and wise policy. We do not question the *bonafides* of Government or of any of the higher officers of Government. But the difficulty is that facts actually as they occur sometimes fail to reach the head of the administration. I believe, Sir, as Henry in Dickens' "Hard Times" says "Give me facts, facts, nothing but facts, feed me upon facts". These facts when they travel from the people towards the head of the administration are sometimes smothered and they seldom get within the province of the head of the Administration. I mean no disparagement to the Government Officers. They have very heavy responsibilities in these difficult times, but after a time the smaller officer will get dazed and bewildered at the volume of unpleasant information that is furnished to Government. Therefore I am glad that this House has promised support not only in the way of bringing true facts, relevant facts, important facts for the consideration of Government, but to do its best in translating the intentions of Government, in translating their enlightened policy for the good of the people. Therefore I am very glad, Sir, that as you have kept your promise in returing as soon as was possible without detriment to Indian and Imperial interests, so on our part we shall also keep up our promise to give Government all manner of legitimate support.

MR. E. P. VARUGHESE (*Ambalapuzha* cum *Shertala*): I have great pleasure in supporting the resolution moved in the House. I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the previous speakers. We are singularly fortunate in having got you back so soon to be at the helm of our affairs at a time when great issues stand in the balance. Sir, we were all thinking that the Government of India would not easily spare you once they had got you there with all your ability, wide experience of men and things, and your varied talents. But as luck

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would have it, we Travancoreans have been fortunate in getting you back among us much earlier than many of us expected. Sir, I do not want to dwell at length on your association with this country and your affection for the land of your adoption and your great schemes for the development of the State which have been manifested in several ways. Your great talents and resourcefulness and tact have been again testified by the way in which you have been able to arrest the storm when the rest of India has been subjected to a storm that has been set in motion by the resolution of the Congress. Sir, I need not repeat how smoothly we were able to carry on here. I think that the latest testimonial by your tact and resourcefulness is the way in which you have been able to avert the demonstration not only of the students but of the public too.

We have got very grave problems to be faced especially, our food problem, and but for your presence here, we are sure we would have been in greater difficulties than we are now in. We owe a great debt of gratitude to His Highness the Maharaja on that issue and I as a humble servant have to give expression to our loyal thanks to His Gracious Highness the Maharaja for aiding us in the food problem and we have also to extend our greatfulness to you, Sir, who is at the helm of affairs. Sir, I wish you a long and happy administration.

MR. J. E. A. PEREIRA (*Commerce and Industry South*): Sir, I also heartily support the motion. It was given to me the privilege to move in this House a resolution when your services were first requisitioned by the Government of India reiterating our belief that your services were indispensable to the State and that you should return here at the earliest and as such I wish to take this opportunity of welcoming your return here. This is not the time to dilate on your achievements as these are well-known to this House. Your abilities are beyond dispute and universally recognised and it is our good fortune that you are come back to our midst when the country, as the resolutions say, is passing through very critical times and very difficult times are ahead of us and at such a juncture we require the best brains to pilot the destinies of the State, the more so, as it was pointed out by the Dewan-President in his speech that the end of the present war will be the starting point of a terrible economic war.

The mover of the resolution said that you had returned much earlier than was anticipated by some of us. This is all the better for Travancore. I say so because the honourable members will be glad to hear that the Dewan-President had fought and won from the Imperial Government the rare privilege for the State viz., the privilege to own steamers and since steamers are not available at present the State is going to begin by buying a few Schooners. I am sure that in the peace time routine, Imperial Government would not have been brought to give this privilege to the State but for the timely fight put up by you at present; hence I say that the quicker return is all the better for Travancore. With these words, I heartily support the resolution.

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SRIMATI T. NARAYANI AMMA (*Nominated*): Sir, I have very great pleasure in supporting the motion. It is eminently in the fitness of things that this House passes a resolution of the kind. Much as the people of Travancore felt gratified and glad at the well deserved recognition of his unsurpassed merits, made by appointing Sachivottama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar as a member of the Viceroy's Council, there was undoubtedly, it must be confessed, an under-current feeling of keen regret at his departure from Travancore. And the demonstrations of joy with which the news about his return to Travancore was hailed show how the entire population of the State felt at his resuming the reins of administration. The Travancore Legislature representing as it does the people of the State, owes a duty to itself in passing a motion offering its hearty welcome to him back to the State, with the interest of which he has identified himself with an earnestness, sincerity and devotion which will be remembered with feelings of gratitude, by generations yet unborn.

The second part of the motion is equally appropriate. We are indeed passing through difficult times, and it is a matter of great consolation to us that we have now at the helm of affairs, a brilliant statesman of the position, rank and capacity of Sachivottama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, who, above all, is as I have had occasion to say more than once in this House, more patriotic than even the most patriotic of Travancoreans. The admirable way in which he has already handled many difficult questions brought about by a devastating war is realised by the entire population of the State. The position is such that much more remains to be done; and there are many questions which have to be handled with care, foresight and firmness. The success of the various steps that are being and have to be taken depends to a great extent in the co-operation of the people. This co-operation to be sure will be forthcoming in an abundant measure and it is only proper that we record it in the manner pointed out in the motion.

The motion was put to vote and carried *nem con.*

PRESIDENT: I cannot let this occasion pass without placing on record my feelings of gratitude and thankfulness to the honourable members of this House. It is a heartening feature and I am greatly encouraged by the resolution and, more even than by that resolution, by the way in which it was moved, seconded, and received.

There are only two or three remarks that I should like to offer at this stage. One is with reference to a certain observation made by an honourable member that the station which I was going to occupy was an exalted one in comparison with the smallness of this State and the comparative insignificance of the position as Head of the Administration in this State. Let me utter a caveat. I esteem it a privilege to serve such a Sovereign as His Highness the Maharaja as second to none in the world and I do not therefore merit or deserve any special congratulation for having resumed my position in the State at the bidding of His Highness. I do not mean to assert, and I would be

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churlish and ungrateful if I did not proclaim my sense of indebtedness to His Excellency the Viceroy for the great mark of trust and confidence that was reposed in me when he asked the permission of His Highness the Maharaja for sparing my services for work with the Government of India. If I firmly and sincerely believed that the work I shall do at this juncture in the history of Travancore was at least as important as any work that I shall transact in Delhi, I should not have come back. It is because I felt that I shall be more useful to the country at large as well as to Travancore by serving as Dewan of this State that I ventured to ask the permission of His Excellency the Viceroy to release me from the position to which in his great kindness and great personal consideration to me he had called me. If I thought either from the general point of view of India or from the point of view of the States as a whole, I should do better if I remained there longer than as I did, I should have remained. But I came to the conclusion after careful research and deliberation that the work of piloting this State during the times that are ahead of us, of endeavouring to co-ordinate the efforts of this State with the efforts of other States, and of endeavouring to negotiate and to come to some kind of *modus vivendi* so that the Indian States may speak with one voice and may play the part which Indian States deserve to play in the future comity of Indian politics, was of paramount importance. If I did not think that that was the paramount duty, I should not have come back. But I do think it is a paramount duty.

If I am to extend my remarks by two more minutes let me say this.

The work of the immediate future in India is a work of harmony, is a work of consolidation, is a work of reconciliation of divergencies and divergent claims. Those who seek to separate are doing no service. Those who seek to unite are rendering transcendent work and service. And I felt that with the inspiration and stimulus of His Highness's lofty example and his personal life it was possible from this station so to exert one's influence that the Indian States may come together, may take a line not dissonant from, not discrepant to unifying India and the endeavouring to unify India. That is the task of the future. There are other tasks, economic and social, which are immediate and urgent. But none of these tasks can be envisaged, attempted or adequately implemented without the fullest co-operation on the one hand of the Sovereign and on the other hand of the people. It is the good fortune of Travancore that there exist conditions making for that uniformity and that uniformity needs to be perfected. In that consciousness, in that hope I have come back. Not because I felt that this was a small work in comparison with the big work which out of condescension I chose to accept but because I regard this work as equally important as the other work. This alone I shall say, though it be irrelevant in a State like Travancore, that, with the constitutional maxim and traditions of Travancore, if work has to be done, men in

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[President]

charge of it can see that work done and perfected and finished. It is not always the case with the more slow-moving apparatus of Government and it is not an aspect which has to be forgotten when the members praised me. I do not deserve as much praise as has been bestowed upon me. It is the chance of service which is more abundant here than perhaps elsewhere which has permitted me to come back and, in coming, I count and reckon confidently on that co-operation which has been promised by the people and I speak in all gratitude as one deeply indebted to this House as one of the representative institutions of the people and for the manner in which they have received my actions and judged my motives. Thank you.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS.

DEMAND I—EXCISE DEPARTMENT.

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Sir, I move for a Supplementary Grant of Rs. 52,000 under Demand 1—Excise. This grant is intended to provide additional funds for payment of charges on account of the transport of salt. There was a provision of Rs. 50,000 in the Budget for 1118. But it is not sufficient to meet the expenditure. There has been an unusually large demand this year for salt from the Government Depots on account of the lack of facilities for merchants to transport salt direct from the factories, the transport charges having gone up very high. Consequently, the stock in the depots began to run out all on a sudden and urgent action had to be taken by engaging contractors to replenish the stock in the depots of Munambom, Alleppey, Quilon and Trivandrum. The Excise Commissioner has reported that the transport charges to be paid to the contractors for the quantities contracted for, come to about Rs. 1,00,000. It is therefore proposed to provide an additional allotment of Rs. 52,000 under Demand I—Excise. I move that the House be pleased to sanction it.

The demand was put to vote and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND V—REGISTRATION.

MR. K. MADHAVA KURUP (*Director of Registration*): Sir, I rise to move for a supplementary grant of Rs. 8,950 under Demand V—Registration. This amount is required for two purposes. Part of the grant is required for the continuance till the end of the year of the four temporary Sub-Registrar's Offices which were opened for six months from the 1st Kanni 1118. The work in these Offices justifies their continuance The other part is required for continuing throughout 1118 the 72 temporary clerks who are working in these Offices. There has been considerable increase of work in all offices and it is necessary to continue them. I move that the House be pleased to grant the amount.

The motion was put and carried and the grant was made.

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